

Government Railways.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1900.

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TO-DAY.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued from all stations to and from the Metropolitan Suburban and Newcastle Suburban sections, by all trains until FRIDAY, 29th January, available for return until THURSDAY, 28th January.

INTER-CITY TICKETS.

Holiday Excursion Tickets will be issued at the principal stations to Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Sydney on FRIDAY, 29th January, and on SATURDAY, 30th January, available for return for three months.

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS.

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS at 50 per cent first-class (minimum 20), and 10 per cent second-class return (minimum 10), will be issued at Sydney and Suburban stations to the country by the following trains from Sydney, AVAILABLE FOR RETURN BY ANY TRAIN (except the Melbourne Express and Northern and Western Mail) until and including THURSDAY, 28th January.

TO THE NORTHERN LINE.

2.30 a.m. to Newcastle, 9.5 a.m. to Newcastle, 2.30 a.m. to Newcastle, 9.5 a.m. to Newcastle.

TO THE WESTERN LINE.

7.50 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. to Sydney and stations to Mount Victoria, 8.30 a.m. to Newcastle, 8.55 a.m. to Newcastle.

TO THE SOUTHERN LINE.

7.50 a.m. to Newcastle, 9.5 a.m. to Newcastle, 7.50 a.m. to Newcastle, 9.5 a.m. to Newcastle.

TO THE SOUTH COAST LINE.

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THEATRE ROYAL.

Under the Direction of Mr. J. C. Williamson.

GRAND OPERA SEASON.

THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING, Dec. 26, at 8.

"CARMEN"
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Dramatic Program:

Don Juan, a Tragedy, by Victor Hugo, adapted by Charles Gounod, sung by the following artists:
Don Juan, by Mr. J. C. Williamson
Donna Elvira, by Mrs. J. C. Williamson
Donna Anna, by Miss J. C. Williamson
Donna Elvira, by Mrs. J. C. Williamson
Donna Anna, by Miss J. C. Williamson

Musical Director, Herr Spillhoff.

THURSDAY, Dec. 27, at 8.

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FRIDAY, Dec. 28, at 8.

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SATURDAY, Dec. 29, at 8.

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SUNDAY, Dec. 30, at 2.

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PRICES OF ADMISSION:

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CHINA.

PRESENTATION OF THE JOINT NOTE.

REGARDED AS AN ULTIMATUM.

EXPLANATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS DISILLUSIONED.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

Senior B. J. de Cologan, the Spanish Minister at Peking, by virtue of being the senior Minister of the Diplomatic body, has handed the Joint Note of the Powers to Prince Chiang. With it he handed an explanation from Mr. E. H. Conger, the United States Minister, declaring that the United States had signed the note believing it to be the best arrangement that could be arrived at under the circumstances, but at the same time his Government disapproved of some of the severer terms of the Note.

Senior de Cologan informed Prince Chiang that he hoped that China would give an early reply to the Note, which he stated had been carefully prepared by the Ministers with every desire to preserve the peace and avoid harshness towards the nation. He hoped that the Chinese Emperors would urge upon the Emperor the necessity of an immediate compliance with the demands of the Note.

The United States newspapers have been bitterly disillusioned by President Kinnear's explanation to the Allies. Mr. Kinnear's explanation, they state, is not a protest against the terms of the Note.

The "Norve Vremis," a St. Petersburg journal, states that the stipulation introduced into the Note, at the instance of Great Britain, that the troops of the Allies would not be withdrawn until the fulfilment of all conditions makes the Note a demand for the Allies to remain in the same position as Manchuria is outside the jurisdiction of the authors of the Note.

Other Russian journals see a prolongation of the crisis in China, thus preventing international intervention in the Transvaal, and at the same time strengthening the position of Field-Marshal C. G. Bennet, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allies in China.

THE CONCEPT OF THE POWERS.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The Allies have agreed that they will withdraw their troops from China for any reason whatsoever it will not affect the concept of the Powers.

GENERAL NEWS.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

Li Hung Chang, who was reported to be suffering from an attack of influenza, is still ill.

N.S.W. NAVAL CONTINGENT.

DEATH OF STAFF-SURGEON STEEL.

HIS LOSS DEPLORED.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF THE MEN.

PEKING, Nov. 14 (on Thursday).

Great and general regret was expressed by the officers and men of the New South Wales Naval Contingent at the sad and sudden death of Staff-Surgeon Steel, and the news was received with deep sorrow.

Staff-Surgeon Steel, who was a member of the contingent, died at Peking, and was buried in the local cemetery. His death was a great loss to the contingent, and his services were highly valued.

THE OUTRAGE STRIKE.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

In connection with the strike of miners at Outtrim, the weather today was very cold, and the strike continued.

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The Christmas celebrations were held in the usual manner, and the weather was very cold. The services were well attended, and the atmosphere was festive.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, Tuesday.

There were 151 bags of wool on board the M.S. "Adelaide" today, and the weather was very cold. The wool was of good quality, and the ship is expected to arrive in London soon.

SPEECH DAYS.

KINGSWOOD COLLEGE, WARELEY.

The annual speaking-out and distribution of prizes to pupils of Kingswood College, Wareley, took place today. The pupils gave excellent speeches, and the prizes were distributed to the successful ones.

TODAY.

Boring Day: Public Holiday.

Today is a public holiday, and the weather is very cold. The streets are busy with people going to church and shopping. The shops are decorated with Christmas lights and decorations.

NEWS BY THE CHINA MAIL.

FRENCH AND JAPANESE DEMAND COM.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S POLICY.

CHINESE IN A STATE OF ANARCHY.

THURSDAY ISLAND, Monday.

The "North China Daily News" states that the Emperor of China has recovered from his illness, and the situation in China is improving. The Emperor is expected to return to his duties soon.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY.

SPEULATING AS TO THE CABINET.

SIR WILLIAM LYNE LIKELY TO JOIN.

A MINISTRY TO BE FORMED AT ONCE.

TAKING OVER THE CUSTOMS DUTIES.

THE MILITARY SERVICES.

ISSUE OF A COMMONWEALTH "GAZETTE."

QUESTION OF REMOVAL TO MELBOURNE.

WILLIAM M. BARTON, who was called upon by the Government to take over the duties of the Federal Minister, has agreed to do so.

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Funerals.

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